State of Arizona Senate Forty-eighth Legislature Second Regular Session 2008

SENATE BILL 1291

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 28-872 AND 28-3515, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 28, CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE 9, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 28-3516; AMENDING SECTIONS 28-4802, 28-4804, 28-4834, 28-4836 AND 28-4847, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; CHANGING THE DESIGNATION OF TITLE 28, CHAPTER 11, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, TO "ABANDONED, SEIZED, JUNK AND TOWED VEHICLES"; AMENDING TITLE 28, CHAPTER 11, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING ARTICLE 4; PROVIDING FOR THE DELAYED REPEAL OF TITLE 28, CHAPTER 11, ARTICLE 4, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO TOWING OF VEHICLES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona: Section 1. Section 28-872, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

28-872. Removal of vehicles: notice: liability for costs: hearing

- A. If a police officer finds a vehicle standing on a highway in violation of section 28-871 the officer may move the vehicle or require the driver or other person in charge of the vehicle to move the vehicle to a position off the paved or main traveled part of the highway.
- B. A police officer may remove or cause to be removed to a place of safety an unattended vehicle that is illegally left standing on a highway, bridge or causeway or in a tunnel in a position or under circumstances that obstruct the normal movement of traffic.
- C. A police officer may remove or cause the removal of a vehicle to the nearest garage or other place of safety as follows:
- 1. If a report has been made that the vehicle has been stolen or taken without the consent of its owner.
- 2. If the person or persons in charge of the vehicle are unable to provide for its custody or removal.
- 3. If the person driving or in control of the vehicle is arrested for an alleged offense for which the officer is required by law to take the person arrested before a proper magistrate without unnecessary delay.
- 4. If the vehicle is left unattended for more than four hours on the right-of-way of a freeway that has full control of access and no crossings at grade.
- 5. Within the boundaries of a city, if the vehicle is left unattended for more than two hours on the right-of-way of a freeway that has full control of access and no crossings at grade.
- D. If a police officer removes or causes the removal of a vehicle pursuant to this section, the police officer shall do $\frac{1}{100}$ BOTH of the following when the vehicle is removed:
- 1. Provide to the tow truck operator a form that the police officer signs and that includes the following information:
 - (a) The vehicle identification number.
- (b) A number identifying the law enforcement agency and the officer ordering the tow.
 - (c) The year, make and model of the vehicle.
 - (d) The license plate number if available.
 - (e) The date and time the vehicle was towed.
- (f) The $\frac{\text{address}}{\text{ADDRESSES}}$ from which AND TO WHICH the vehicle was towed.
- (g) The name, address and telephone number, if the telephone number is known, of the registered owner and the primary lien holder of the vehicle to permit the towing company to notify the registered owner or the primary lien holder.

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- 2. Electronically Communicate to the officer's law enforcement agency both of the following and provide to the towing company that towed the vehicle the name, address and telephone number, if the telephone number is known, of the registered owner and the primary lien holder of the vehicle:
- (a) The name, ADDRESS and telephone number of the person TOWING COMPANY towing the vehicle.
 - (b) The information prescribed by paragraph 1 of this subsection.
- E. If a police officer provides the tow truck operator with the form described in subsection D, paragraph 1 of this section, the tow truck operator must provide the form to the person responsible for filing the abandoned vehicle report pursuant to section 28-4838. The person responsible for filing the abandoned vehicle report shall submit the form to the department of transportation at the time the person files the abandoned vehicle report.
- F. The law enforcement agency receiving electronic information pursuant to subsection D of this section shall ELECTRONICALLY record the information as prescribed by the department of public safety. The department of public safety shall make the information available to the department of transportation.
- G. When the department of transportation receives the information from either the department of public safety or the person responsible for filing the abandoned vehicle report pursuant to section 28-4838, the department of transportation shall send notice by first class mail to all persons listed on the department of transportation's records as having an ownership interest in the vehicle. The notice shall include the vehicle identification number, and the name and telephone number of the person TOWING COMPANY that towed the vehicle AND THE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE VEHICLE WAS TOWED. The director of the department of transportation may include additional information on the notice as the director deems necessary.
 - H. Except as provided in subsection I of this section:
- 1. The public agency employing an officer who removes or causes the removal of a vehicle under this section is not liable for the cost of towing or storing the vehicle if the officer acts under color of the officer's lawful authority.
- 2. Before release of the vehicle by the towing service COMPANY, the owner or the owner's agent of a vehicle that is removed or caused to be removed under this article shall pay or make satisfactory arrangements to pay for any reasonable towing and storage costs incurred in towing or storing the vehicle.
- I. If a tow truck operator is required in writing by a public agency to tow or store a vehicle that is required as evidence in a criminal action or for future criminal investigation by the public agency, the public agency is liable for the towing and storage costs of the vehicle.
- J. If a police officer removes or causes the removal of a vehicle as permitted by this section, the public agency employing the officer shall

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provide the registered owner of the vehicle or the registered owner's agent with the opportunity for a poststorage hearing to determine the validity of the removal. This hearing shall be conducted within forty-eight hours after a request, excluding weekends and holidays. The public agency employing the officer may authorize its own officer or employee to conduct the hearing if the hearing officer is not the same person who removed or caused the removal of the vehicle. The public agency employing the officer who removes or causes the removal of the vehicle is responsible for the costs incurred for towing and storage if it is determined at the hearing that probable cause for the removal cannot be established.

Sec. 2. Section 28-3515, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 28-3515. Unclaimed vehicles

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TEN-DAY PERIOD PRESCRIBED BY SECTION 28-4838, SUBSECTION A, if a claim has not been made for the return or possession of the vehicle by a person legally entitled to the vehicle within thirty days after a vehicle is impounded pursuant to this article, the person who has possession of the vehicle shall submit an abandoned vehicle report as provided in section 28-4838 WITHIN TWO BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF THE THIRTY-DAY PERIOD. The immobilizing or impounding agency shall require the person who takes possession of a vehicle pursuant to this section to obtain a release for the vehicle from the immobilizing or impounding agency.

Sec. 3. Title 28, chapter 8, article 9, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding section 28-3516, to read:

28-3516. Removal of vehicles; notice

- A. A PEACE OFFICER WHO CAUSES THE REMOVAL OF A VEHICLE FOR IMMOBILIZATION OR IMPOUNDMENT PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE SHALL DO BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING WHEN THE VEHICLE IS REMOVED:
- 1. PROVIDE TO THE TOW TRUCK OPERATOR A FORM THAT THE PEACE OFFICER SIGNS AND THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
 - (a) THE VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER.
- (b) A NUMBER IDENTIFYING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AND THE OFFICER ORDERING THE TOW.
 - (c) THE YEAR, MAKE AND MODEL OF THE VEHICLE.
 - (d) THE LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IF AVAILABLE.
 - (e) THE DATE AND TIME THE VEHICLE WAS TOWED.
 - (f) THE ADDRESSES FROM WHICH AND TO WHICH THE VEHICLE WAS TOWED.
- (g) THE NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER, IF THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS KNOWN, OF THE REGISTERED OWNER AND THE PRIMARY LIENHOLDER OF THE VEHICLE TO PERMIT THE TOWING COMPANY TO NOTIFY THE REGISTERED OWNER OR THE PRIMARY LIENHOLDER.
- 2. COMMUNICATE TO THE OFFICER'S LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING AND PROVIDE TO THE TOWING COMPANY THAT TOWED THE VEHICLE THE NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER, IF THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS KNOWN, OF THE REGISTERED OWNER AND THE PRIMARY LIENHOLDER OF THE VEHICLE:

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- (a) THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE TOWING COMPANY TOWING THE VEHICLE.
 - (b) THE INFORMATION PRESCRIBED BY PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBSECTION.
- B. THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY RECEIVING INFORMATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION A SHALL ELECTRONICALLY RECORD THE INFORMATION AS PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SHALL MAKE THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.
- C. WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RECEIVES THE INFORMATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL SEND NOTICE BY FIRST CLASS MAIL TO ALL PERSONS LISTED ON THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S RECORDS AS HAVING AN OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN THE VEHICLE. THE NOTICE SHALL INCLUDE THE VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER, THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE TOWING COMPANY THAT TOWED THE VEHICLE AND THE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE VEHICLE WAS TOWED. THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MAY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE NOTICE AS THE DIRECTOR DEEMS NECESSARY.
 - Sec. 4. Section 28-4802, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 28-4802. Fees
- A. Except as provided in subsection B of this section, the owner of record of a vehicle at the time of abandonment of the vehicle is liable to the department for the transfer of ownership or disposal in the amount of fifty dollars if the vehicle was:
- 1. Abandoned and junked pursuant to article 3 of this chapter on private property or public land or on or within the right-of-way of a street or highway.
- 2. Abandoned on private property or public land or on or within the right-of-way of a street or highway and the department issues a transfer of ownership pursuant to the procedures prescribed by this chapter.
- 3. Abandoned and junked pursuant to article 3 of this chapter and towed with the written permission of the state land commissioner from state trust land located within the boundaries of an incorporated city or town.
- B. The owner of record of a vehicle at the time of abandonment is liable to the department for the transfer of ownership or disposal in the amount of two hundred dollars if the vehicle was:
- 1. Abandoned and junked pursuant to article 3 of this chapter and towed with the written permission of the governing authority off of national forest, state park, bureau of land management or state trust land located outside the boundaries of an incorporated city or town.
- 2. Abandoned and towed with the written permission of the governing authority off of national forest, state park, bureau of land management or state trust land located outside the boundaries of an incorporated city or town and the department issues a transfer of ownership pursuant to the procedures prescribed by this chapter.
- 3. Abandoned outside the right-of-way of a street or highway located outside the boundaries of an incorporated city or town.

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- C. In addition to the registration fee or driver license fee prescribed by sections 28-2003 and 28-3002, the department shall collect the fee prescribed in subsections A and B of this section as an additional registration fee at the time the owner of the vehicle subsequently registers another vehicle in this state or as an additional driver license fee at the time the owner of the vehicle subsequently applies for or renews a driver license issued by this state. The department shall deposit, pursuant to sections 35-146 and 35-147, the additional fee collected for the transfer of ownership or disposal in the abandoned vehicle administration fund established by section 28-4804.
 - D. The department:
- 1. Shall notify the owner of an abandoned vehicle for which ownership has been transferred or of a junk vehicle that has been disposed of about the additional fee at the time of a subsequent vehicle registration or driver license application or renewal.
- 2. Shall provide a complete description of the abandoned or junked vehicle, the vehicle identification number of the vehicle and the date on which the vehicle was disposed of or ownership was transferred by the department.
- 3. May waive the additional fee if the person provides proof satisfactory to the director that the vehicle had been transferred or assigned to another person before the day of abandonment.
- 4. May prescribe by rule a fee of not more than ten dollars for processing an abandoned vehicle report.
 - 5. MAY PRESCRIBE BY RULE AN ADDITIONAL ABANDONED VEHICLE REPORT FEE. Sec. 5. Section 28-4804, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 28-4804. Abandoned vehicle administration monies: deposit

The department may receive monies pursuant to section 28 4802 and SHALL DEPOSIT all monies collected pursuant to this chapter for deposit in the state highway fund established by section 28-6991. The department OF TRANSPORTATION shall use monies collected pursuant to this chapter to carry out the duties prescribed by this chapter AND TO REIMBURSE THE DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZED THIRD PARTY ELECTRONIC SERVICE PROVIDER FOR COSTS INCURRED RELATING TO TRANSMITTING THE INFORMATION PRESCRIBED BY SECTION 28-4836.

- Sec. 6. Section 28-4834, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 28-4834. <u>Vehicle removal</u>
- A. An officer who has reasonable grounds to believe that a vehicle has been lost, stolen, abandoned or otherwise unclaimed may remove or cause the removal of the vehicle from any street or highway or on any other public, federal, state trust, national forest, state park or bureau of land management land or private property.
- B. In counties with a population of less than one million five hundred thousand persons, before an officer removes or causes the removal of a vehicle that is abandoned as provided in section 28-4839 from the person in possession of the vehicle, the owner or lienholder of the vehicle or any

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other person who has an interest in the vehicle shall pay the person on whose property the vehicle was discovered an amount that does not exceed five dollars for each day of storage up to a maximum of five hundred dollars for the storage of the vehicle and the fee for processing an abandoned vehicle report as prescribed by section 28-4802 if the person on whose property the vehicle was discovered does both of the following:

- 1. Notifies a law enforcement agency by telephone in the jurisdiction where the vehicle was discovered of the presence of the vehicle on the person's property within forty-eight hours after the property owner discovered the vehicle.
- 2. Gives notice of abandonment of the vehicle in the manner prescribed by law.
- C. This section does not require a law enforcement agency to pay any charges related to a vehicle that a law enforcement agency is required or otherwise authorized by law to impound or remove.
- D. If a person removes or causes the removal of an abandoned vehicle from private property, the person shall both:
- $1.\$ Obtain written authorization from the owner or lessee of the property on a form prescribed by the director.
- 2. Submit the form and the vehicle identification form to the department.
- E. An officer who is employed by a public agency or political subdivision and who has removed an abandoned vehicle pursuant to this section or who has removed or caused to be removed a vehicle pursuant to section 28-872 shall inspect the vehicle and shall DO BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING:
- 1. Complete the vehicle identification form prescribed or approved by the director. The agency or political subdivision shall make an inquiry to determine whether the abandoned vehicle is a stolen abandoned vehicle.
- 2. COMMUNICATE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING TO THE OFFICER'S LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AND PROVIDE TO THE TOWING COMPANY THAT TOWED THE VEHICLE THE NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER, IF THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS KNOWN, OF THE REGISTERED OWNER AND THE PRIMARY LIENHOLDER OF THE VEHICLE:
 - (a) THE VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER.
- (b) A NUMBER IDENTIFYING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AND THE OFFICER ORDERING THE TOW.
 - (c) THE YEAR, MAKE AND MODEL OF THE VEHICLE.
 - (d) THE LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IF AVAILABLE.
 - (e) THE DATE AND TIME THE VEHICLE WAS TOWED.
 - (f) THE ADDRESSES FROM WHICH AND TO WHICH THE VEHICLE WAS TOWED.
- F. THE OFFICER SHALL PROVIDE THE TOW TRUCK OPERATOR WITH THE FORM DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION E, PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SECTION. THE TOW TRUCK OPERATOR MUST PROVIDE THE FORM TO THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR FILING THE ABANDONED VEHICLE REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 28-4838. THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR FILING THE ABANDONED VEHICLE REPORT SHALL SUBMIT THE FORM TO THE DEPARTMENT AT THE TIME THE PERSON FILES THE ABANDONED VEHICLE REPORT.

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- G. THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY RECEIVING INFORMATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION E OF THIS SECTION SHALL ELECTRONICALLY RECORD THE INFORMATION AS PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY. THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SHALL MAKE THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.
- H. WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RECEIVES THE INFORMATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL SEND NOTICE BY FIRST CLASS MAIL TO ALL PERSONS LISTED ON THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S RECORDS AS HAVING AN OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN THE VEHICLE. THE NOTICE SHALL INCLUDE THE VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER, THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE TOWING COMPANY THAT TOWED THE VEHICLE AND THE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE VEHICLE WAS TOWED. THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MAY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE NOTICE AS THE DIRECTOR DEEMS NECESSARY.
- F. I. A person who has removed or caused to be removed an abandoned vehicle from public land pursuant to section 28-4802 or private property shall have the vehicle inspected by an officer or agent of the department who shall complete the vehicle identification form prescribed by the director. The officer or agent designated by the director shall make an inquiry to determine whether the abandoned vehicle is a stolen abandoned vehicle AND ELECTRONICALLY COMMUNICATE THE VEHICLE INFORMATION PRESCRIBED BY THIS SECTION TO THE DEPARTMENT IN A MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT.
 - Sec. 7. Section 28-4836, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 28-4836. Towed vehicles: notification; violation; classification
- A. Except if acting under the direction of a peace officer, a person who moves or tows a vehicle into a public garage, parking lot, storage yard or automotive recycling yard or on private property without the consent of the vehicle owner or the owner's agent shall DO BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING WITHIN ONE HOUR AFTER THE VEHICLE IS MOVED OR TOWED:
- 1. Notify the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction where the vehicle was located before the moving or towing. The notification shall be by telephone within one hour of the time the vehicle is moved or towed.
- 2. ELECTRONICALLY COMMUNICATE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING TO THE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZED THIRD PARTY ELECTRONIC SERVICE PROVIDER IN A FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE DIRECTOR:
- (a) THE NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE TOWING COMPANY IN POSSESSION OF THE VEHICLE.
 - (b) THE VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER IF AVAILABLE.
- (c) THE YEAR, MAKE AND MODEL OF THE VEHICLE, IF KNOWN, OR A DESCRIPTION OF THE VEHICLE.
 - (d) THE LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IF AVAILABLE.
 - (e) THE DATE AND TIME THE VEHICLE WAS TOWED.
 - (f) THE ADDRESSES FROM WHICH AND TO WHICH THE VEHICLE WAS TOWED.

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B. A person who fails to comply with this section forfeits all claims for towing and storing the vehicle and is guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor. Sec. 8. Section 28-4847, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 28-4847. Insurance companies: release: fees: violation: classification; definition

- A. On payment of all reasonable towing, storage and related fees, a towing company shall release a towed vehicle to a person designated in writing by an insurance company. The towing company shall release the A TOWED vehicle TO A PERSON DESIGNATED IN WRITING BY AN INSURANCE COMPANY during normal business hours on the day both the request for release IS PROVIDED TO THE TOWING COMPANY, THE DETAILED STATEMENT OF CHARGES IS PROVIDED BY THE TOWING COMPANY AT NO COST and payment are FOR ALL REASONABLE TOWING, STORAGE AND RELATED FEES IS received by the towing company. The request for release shall be in writing and:
- 1. Shall indicate the name of the insurer as well as the name, address, $\frac{\text{and}}{\text{of}}$ telephone number and fax number of a representative of the insurer.
- 2. Shall include the name, address and telephone number of the owner, the owner's written consent for release of the vehicle and the name of the insured, if different from the owner.
- 3. Shall include the insurer's claim number and the name of the person to whom the insurer authorizes release of the vehicle.
- 4. Shall be signed by the owner except as provided in paragraph 6 of this subsection.
 - 5. May be faxed, mailed or hand delivered to the towing company.
- 6. If the written consent of the owner is not obtained pursuant to paragraph 2 of this subsection, the request for release shall include a statement that the insurer has authorization from the vehicle owner to remove the vehicle from the towing company's storage premises.
- 7. Shall include a statement that the owner has been informed that pursuant to this section the towing company is presumptively not responsible for any loss of personal property or damage to the vehicle that is not disclosed to the towing company before the insurer or the insurer's authorized agent removes the vehicle from the towing company's storage premises. The notice shall also include a statement that the owner may inspect the vehicle at the towing company's storage premises, may remove any personal property from the vehicle and may report any damage to the vehicle to the towing company at the time of inspection. THE TOWING COMPANY SHALL NOT REQUIRE PAYMENT FOR THE REMOVAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY THAT IS INSIDE THE VEHICLE IF THE REMOVAL IS DURING BUSINESS HOURS. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH, PERSONAL PROPERTY DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY VEHICLE PARTS, VEHICLE EQUIPMENT OR VEHICLE ACCESSORIES.
- B. AFTER AN INSURANCE COMPANY HAS COMPLETED A REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF A VEHICLE AND BEFORE PAYMENT IS MADE FOR THE RELEASE OF THAT VEHICLE, THE TOWING COMPANY SHALL PROVIDE TO THE INSURANCE COMPANY AT NO COST A DETAILED

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WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ALL CHARGES FOR TOWING, STORAGE AND RELATED FEES. ADDITIONAL STORAGE CHARGES MAY ACCRUE UNTIL FINAL PAYMENT IS MADE AND THE VEHICLE IS REMOVED FROM THE PREMISES BY THE VEHICLE OWNER OR THE INSURANCE COMPANY OR THE PERSON DESIGNATED IN WRITING BY THE INSURANCE COMPANY.

- B. C. If the vehicle owner does not inspect the vehicle pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 7 of this section prior to BEFORE removal of the vehicle to another premises, or has inspected the vehicle and has had the opportunity to remove personal property in the vehicle, a rebuttable presumption shall be created that damage to the vehicle and any loss of personal property in the vehicle occurred while the vehicle was not in the custody of the towing company. The presumption may be overcome by a preponderance of evidence to the contrary.
- C. D. Except for proration for partial days, a towing company shall not charge additional storage fees for a vehicle after a request for release and payment has been made pursuant to subsection A of this section if both of the following apply:
- 1. The insurance company or its representative provides the written request for release as prescribed in this section.
- 2. The insurance company or its representative removes the vehicle from the towing company's storage premises during normal business hours on the day the towing company receives the request for release.
- E. A PERSON IN THIS STATE MAY CHOOSE ANY VEHICLE REPAIR FACILITY FOR THE REPAIR OF A MOTOR VEHICLE. AT THE SAME TIME A TOWING COMPANY OR OPERATOR OF A TOWING VEHICLE PROVIDES INFORMATION ABOUT A VEHICLE REPAIR FACILITY, THE COMPANY OR OPERATOR SHALL INFORM THE PERSON OF BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING:
- 1. THE PERSON'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE ANY VEHICLE REPAIR FACILITY FOR THE REPAIR OF A MOTOR VEHICLE.
- 2. ANY COMMONALITY OF OWNERSHIP BETWEEN THE VEHICLE REPAIR FACILITY AND EITHER THE TOWING COMPANY OR THE OPERATOR OF THE TOWING VEHICLE.
- F. A TOWING COMPANY SHALL NOT TOW OR TRANSPORT A VEHICLE FROM ITS STORAGE LOT WITHOUT THE PRIOR PERMISSION OF THE VEHICLE OWNER OR THE INSURANCE COMPANY. THE TOWING COMPANY MAY MOVE A VEHICLE BETWEEN ITS OWN STORAGE LOTS WITHOUT OBTAINING PRIOR PERMISSION. THE TOWING COMPANY SHALL NOT CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEE OR OTHER MONIES TO A VEHICLE OWNER OR AN INSURANCE COMPANY AS A RESULT OF ANY CHANGE IN LOCATION OF THE VEHICLE BETWEEN ITS OWN STORAGE LOTS.
- G. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION H OF THIS SECTION, A VEHICLE REPAIR FACILITY OR ANY EMPLOYEE OF A VEHICLE REPAIR FACILITY SHALL NOT PAY OR AGREE TO PAY, AND A TOWING COMPANY OR ANY EMPLOYEE OF A TOWING COMPANY SHALL NOT ACCEPT OR AGREE TO ACCEPT, ANY MONIES, FEES, COMMISSIONS, CREDITS, GIFTS, GRATUITIES, THINGS OF VALUE OR OTHER COMPENSATION THAT IS PROVIDED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF INDUCING THE TOWING COMPANY OR ANY EMPLOYEE OF A TOWING COMPANY TO DO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

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- 1. ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE, UNREASONABLY PERSUADE OR INDUCE THE PERSON REQUESTING THE TOW OR TRANSPORT OF A VEHICLE TO CHOOSE THE SERVICES OF THE VEHICLE REPAIR FACILITY RECOMMENDED BY THE TOWING COMPANY.
- 2. REFUSE TO TOW OR TRANSPORT THE VEHICLE UNLESS THE PERSON REQUESTING THE TOW OR TRANSPORT OF A VEHICLE AGREES TO THE VEHICLE REPAIR FACILITY RECOMMENDED BY THE TOWING COMPANY.
- 3. DELIVER A VEHICLE TO A VEHICLE REPAIR FACILITY OTHER THAN THE VEHICLE REPAIR FACILITY CHOSEN BY THE PERSON REQUESTING THE TOW OR TRANSPORT OF THE VEHICLE.
- 4. MAKE AN INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION REGARDING THE CONDITION OF THE VEHICLE. THE PERSON'S INSURER OR A SPECIFIC VEHICLE REPAIR FACILITY.
- H. AN AUTOMOBILE MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATION THAT TOWS ITS MEMBERS' VEHICLES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ASSOCIATION'S TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP MAY PAY ITS EMPLOYEES IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF BUSINESS.
- I. UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, THE TOWING COMPANY SHALL TOW THE VEHICLE TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS, IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER OF PRIORITY:
- 1. A LOCATION SPECIFIED BY THE OWNER OF THE VEHICLE IF THE OWNER IS PRESENT AT THE TIME OF THE TOW AND IS CAPABLE OF INDICATING THE OWNER'S PREFERENCE.
- 2. A VEHICLE STORAGE YARD DESIGNATED IN THE CONTRACT UNDER WHICH THE TOWING COMPANY HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR TOWING THE VEHICLE.
- J. SUBSECTION E OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT CREATE A PRIVATE RIGHT OR CAUSE OF ACTION TO OR ON BEHALF OF ANY PERSON.
- D. K. This section does not create a cause of action or a right to bring an action against a towing company for releasing a motor vehicle to a person other than the owner if the written authorization as prescribed in this section is provided to the towing company by the owner or an insurance company.
- L. A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A PETTY OFFENSE. A PERSON WHO SUBSEQUENTLY VIOLATES THIS SECTION WITHIN THIRTY-SIX MONTHS AFTER A PRIOR VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A CLASS 3 MISDEMEANOR.
 - E. M. For the purposes of this section,:
 - 1. "GIFT" DOES NOT INCLUDE AN ITEM OF NOMINAL VALUE.
- 2. "Owner" has the same meaning $\frac{\text{as defined}}{\text{PRESCRIBED}}$ in section 28-101.
 - Sec. 9. Heading change

The chapter heading of title 28, chapter 11, Arizona Revised Statutes, is changed from "ABANDONED, SEIZED AND JUNK VEHICLES" to "ABANDONED, SEIZED, JUNK AND TOWED VEHICLES".

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Sec. 10. Title 28, chapter 11, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding article 4, to read:

ARTICLE 4. PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWERS

28-4901. <u>Definition of private property trespass tower</u>

IN THIS ARTICLE, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES, "PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER" MEANS ANY PERSON WHO DOES BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. COMMERCIALLY OFFERS SERVICES TO TOW, TRANSPORT OR IMPOUND MOTOR VEHICLES FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF THE VEHICLE.
- 2. USES A VEHICLE DESIGNED FOR OR ADAPTED TO PERFORM THE SERVICES PRESCRIBED BY PARAGRAPH 1.

28-4902. Towing rates

- A. EACH PERSON ENGAGING IN THE BUSINESS OF A PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER IS SUBJECT TO THE RATES ESTABLISHED BY A CITY OR TOWN PURSUANT TO SECTION 9-499.05 OR A COUNTY PURSUANT TO SECTION 11-251.04.
- B. IF A CITY, TOWN OR COUNTY DOES NOT SET RATES FOR PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWING, THE CONTRACT OR WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION ENTERED INTO BETWEEN THE TOWER AND PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNER OR OWNER'S AGENT SHALL SPECIFY RATES FOR THE FOLLOWING:
- 1. THE COMMERCIAL TOWING OR REMOVAL OF TRESPASSING VEHICLES FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY.
- 2. THE STORAGE FOR PERIODS OF MORE THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OF VEHICLES IN CONNECTION WITH TOWING OR REMOVAL.
 - 3. OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED BY A PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER.

28-4903. Towing performed pursuant to police action

THIS ARTICLE DOES NOT REGULATE OR OTHERWISE AFFECT TOWING PERFORMED BY ANY PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER OR PRIVATE TOWING CARRIER PURSUANT TO THE ORDER OR REQUEST OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL OR AGENCY PURSUANT TO SECTION 28-872, 28-3511 OR 28-4834.

28-4904. Record requirements

- A. EACH PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER WHO TOWS VEHICLES PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE SHALL KEEP AND MAINTAIN AT THE PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER'S PLACE OF BUSINESS, OR AT EACH OF THE TOWER'S PLACES OF BUSINESS IF THE TOWER HAS MORE THAN ONE, A PERMANENT RECORD IN A FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE DIRECTOR RECORDING AND DESCRIBING THE FOLLOWING FOR EACH VEHICLE REMOVED BY THE PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER:
 - 1. THE MAKE, MODEL AND DESCRIPTION OF THE VEHICLE.
- 2. THE NAME OF THE OWNER OF THE VEHICLE OR OWNER'S AGENT REQUESTING RELEASE OF THE VEHICLE.
- 3. THE NUMBER OF THE LICENSE PLATE OF THE VEHICLE OR THE VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER IF AVAILABLE.
 - 4. THE EXTERIOR CONDITION OF THE VEHICLE.
- 5. THE ADDRESSES FROM WHICH AND TO WHICH THE VEHICLE WAS TOWED OR TRANSPORTED.

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- B. THE PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER SHALL MAINTAIN THE RECORD AT THE TOWER'S ESTABLISHED PLACE OF BUSINESS FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST THREE YEARS AFTER THE DATE OF REMOVING EACH VEHICLE RECORDED.
- C. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OR ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY INSPECT THE RECORDS KEPT BY THE PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER AT ANY TIME DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS.
- D. DURING BUSINESS HOURS AND AFTER REASONABLE DEMAND, EACH PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER SHALL ALLOW ANY PERSON DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION C TO PHYSICALLY COMPARE THE RECORDS REQUIRED TO BE MAINTAINED WITH THE VEHICLES THAT ARE LOCATED AT THE TOWER'S PLACE OF BUSINESS.

28-4905. Unlawful practices

- A. A PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER SHALL:
- 1. BEFORE REMOVAL OF A VEHICLE, NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES IN THE JURISDICTION IN WHICH THE TRESPASSING VEHICLE WAS TOWED, TRANSPORTED OR IMPOUNDED AS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 28-4836.
- 2. IN THE OFFICE OR LOCATION AT WHICH TOWED VEHICLES ARE ROUTINELY RETURNED TO THEIR OWNERS, PROMINENTLY POST THE NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE NEAREST LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HAVING JURISDICTION OVER THE CITY OR COUNTY WHERE THE VEHICLE IS RELEASED WHERE INQUIRIES OR COMPLAINTS MAY BE PRESENTED AND MAKE AVAILABLE IN WRITTEN FORM THE RELEVANT STATUTES AND RULES GOVERNING PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWERS.
 - B. A PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER SHALL NOT:
- 1. TOW, TRANSPORT OR IMPOUND ANY VEHICLE FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHOUT HAVING FIRST OBTAINED THE WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION OF THE PROPERTY OWNER OR OTHER PERSON IN LAWFUL POSSESSION OR CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OR THE AUTHORIZED AGENT OF THAT PERSON. THE AUTHORIZATION MAY BE ON A CONTRACTUAL BASIS COVERING A SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME, NOT TO EXCEED ONE YEAR, OR LIMITED TO A SPECIFIC REMOVAL.
- 2. CHARGE TO OR ACCEPT OR OTHERWISE COLLECT FROM THE PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNER OR AUTHORIZED AGENT WHO REQUESTED THAT AN UNAUTHORIZED VEHICLE BE TOWED, TRANSPORTED OR IMPOUNDED FROM THE OWNER'S PROPERTY ANY FEES FOR REMOVING THE VEHICLE CONTRARY TO ANY TERMS THAT MAY BE PART OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE PROPERTY OWNER AND THE PRIVATE TOWING CARRIER.
- 3. TOW, TRANSPORT OR IMPOUND A VEHICLE WHEN THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF THE VEHICLE IS PRESENT OR ARRIVES AT THE VEHICLE LOCATION AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF REMOVAL OF THE VEHICLE FROM THE PRIVATE PROPERTY AND IS WILLING AND ABLE TO REMOVE THE VEHICLE IMMEDIATELY. IN SUCH CASE, NO FEE MAY BE CHARGED TO THE VEHICLE OWNER OR OPERATOR FOR RELEASE OF THE VEHICLE AT THE TOW SITE.
- 4. EXCEPT FOR AN ABANDONED VEHICLE, TOW, TRANSPORT OR IMPOUND ANY VEHICLE FROM PROPERTY ON WHICH SIGNS ARE REQUIRED AND ON WHICH SIGNS ARE NOT POSTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 9-499.05 OR 11-251.04.

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- 5. IMPOSE ANY CHARGE FOR SERVICE OR STORAGE OTHER THAN THE RATES SET BY THE CITY OR TOWN PURSUANT TO SECTION 9-499.05, THE COUNTY PURSUANT TO SECTION 11-251.04 OR THE CONTRACT OR WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 28-4902.
- 6. USE DRIVERS OR OTHER PERSONNEL WHO ARE NOT EMPLOYEES OR CONTRACTORS OF THE PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER.
 - 7. VIOLATE THIS ARTICLE.

28-4906. Civil and criminal penalties

THIS ARTICLE DOES NOT LIMIT OR ALTER THE VEHICLE OWNER'S CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY FOR TRESPASS. THIS ARTICLE DOES NOT LIMIT OR ALTER THE CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY OF ANY PERSON FOR ANY ACT OR OMISSION. ALL PENALTIES ACCRUING UNDER THIS ARTICLE ARE CUMULATIVE.

28-4907. Posting of rates

EACH PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER SHALL PRINT AND KEEP OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ALL AUTHORIZED RATES AND CHARGES FOR TOWING, OTHERWISE MOVING AND STORING VEHICLES IN CONNECTION WITH THE REMOVAL OF UNAUTHORIZED VEHICLES FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY. THE RATES AND CHARGES SHALL BE CLEARLY STATED IN DOLLAR AMOUNTS AND SHALL BE POSTED IN THE FORM AND MANNER AND SHALL CONTAIN THE INFORMATION THAT THE DEPARTMENT PRESCRIBES BY RULE.

28-4908. Release of relocated vehicles; nonpayment; identification

BEFORE RELEASE OF A VEHICLE THAT IS TOWED, TRANSPORTED OR IMPOUNDED BY A PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE, THE OWNER OF THE VEHICLE OR THE OWNER'S AGENT SHALL PAY OR MAKE SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS TO PAY FOR ANY TOWING AND STORAGE COSTS THAT COMPLY WITH THE RATES SET PURSUANT TO SECTION 9-499.05, SECTION 11-251.04 OR A CONTRACT OR WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 28-4902, EXCEPT THAT A PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER SHALL NOT REFUSE TO RELEASE TO THE OWNER OR THE OWNER'S AUTHORIZED AGENT A VEHICLE THAT THE PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER TOWS PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE IF THE OWNER OR THE OWNER'S AUTHORIZED AGENT REFUSES TO PAY THE TOWING AND STORAGE COSTS. THE PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER MAY REQUIRE THE DISPLAY OF A DRIVER LICENSE OR OTHER RELIABLE IDENTIFICATION FROM THE PERSON CLAIMING THE VEHICLE.

28-4909. <u>Civil remedies; definitions</u>

- A. PAYMENT OF THE TOWING AND STORAGE FEES BY THE VEHICLE OWNER OR THE OWNER'S AGENT TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF A VEHICLE FROM A TOWING COMPANY, OPERATOR OR DISPATCHER DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN ADMISSION BY THE VEHICLE OWNER OR THE OWNER'S AGENT THAT THE VEHICLE WAS PARKED IN VIOLATION OF SECTION 9-499.05 OR 11-251.04 OR LIMIT THE VEHICLE OWNER OR THE OWNER'S AGENT IN PURSUING ANY AVAILABLE CIVIL REMEDY TO DISPUTE ANY ACTION TAKEN BY THE FOLLOWING:
- 1. THE PROPERTY OWNER OR THE PROPERTY OWNER'S AGENT WHO IS EXERCISING AUTHORITY OVER THE PROPERTY FROM WHICH THE VEHICLE WAS TOWED.
- 2. THE PERSON ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF A PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER THAT TOWED THE OWNER'S VEHICLE.

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- B. THIS ARTICLE DOES NOT PRECLUDE A PERSON WHO IS ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF A PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER FROM PURSUING ANY AVAILABLE CIVIL REMEDY TO COLLECT FROM A VEHICLE OWNER ANY LAWFUL TOWING AND STORAGE FEES IMPOSED PURSUANT TO SECTION 9-499.05, SECTION 11-251.04 OR A CONTRACT OR WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 28-4902.
 - C. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:
- 1. "DISPATCHER" MEANS ANY PERSON WHO, AS AN EMPLOYEE OR AGENT OF A PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER, DISPATCHES VEHICLES TO OR FROM LOCATIONS WHERE OPERATORS PERFORM REMOVAL ACTIVITIES.
 - 2. "OPERATOR":
 - (a) MEANS ANY PERSON WHO DOES BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING:
- (i) AS AN EMPLOYEE OF A PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER, TOWS, TRANSPORTS OR IMPOUNDS MOTOR VEHICLES FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF THE VEHICLE.
- (ii) USES A VEHICLE DESIGNED FOR OR ADAPTED TO PERFORM THE SERVICES PRESCRIBED BY ITEM (i).
- (b) INCLUDES THE DRIVER OF ANY VEHICLE USED IN TOWING, TRANSPORTING OR IMPOUNDING A TRESPASSING VEHICLE FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY AND ANY PERSON OTHER THAN THE DRIVER WHO ASSISTS IN THE TOWING, TRANSPORTING OR IMPOUNDING OF A TRESPASSING VEHICLE FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY.
 - 28-4910. <u>Towers collecting rates and fees from private property</u> owners; reimbursement from vehicle owner
- A. A PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER WHO TOWS A VEHICLE FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY MAY COLLECT FROM THE OWNER OF THE PRIVATE PROPERTY TOWING RATES AND STORAGE FEES RESULTING FROM THE TOW AND STORAGE OF THE VEHICLE.
- B. A PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNER WHO PAYS A PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS TOWER PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION A MAY SEEK REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE VEHICLE OWNER FOR THE TOWING RATES AND STORAGE FEES PAID.
 - 28-4911. <u>Violation</u>: classification
 - A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS ARTICLE IS GUILTY OF A CLASS 1 MISDEMEANOR.
- 31 Sec. 11. <u>Delayed repeal</u>
 - Title 28, chapter 11, article 4, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this act, is repealed from and after June 30, 2018.

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